party assembled hurriedly. Somebody asked me whether our Council of the Unemployed had connections with the fortress. I said no, but we had some good men on the waterfront, and I offered to go to Kronstadt. The Committee told me to hurry.

In our registration bureau close to the waterfront, two of our men volunteered to provide a launch for me. An hour later they returned with bad news: nothing could be done before dusk. After sunset we went to the shore. Two youths came with me with tools for cutting chains and starting a motor without a key. Others were combing the beach and the inlets for a boat. This was one of the white nights of a St. Petersburg summer. One could see patrols and sentinels everywhere. We spent all night searching for a gap in the defense but found none. We heard salvos of guns from the gulf. After dawn we returned to the bureau and learned that everything was over in Kronstadt. That very evening the ringleaders had been shot on the ramparts of the fortress and their bodies thrown into the sea.

The day after order was restored in Sveaborg and Kronstadt, a strike started in St. Petersburg. Workers in some factories walked out, but there was no unity in the movement. The Mensheviks called on the workers to support the Duma; the Bolsheviks charged the Duma with treason. The strike collapsed on the third day. Next, a general strike was proclaimed in Moscow, but this, too, ended in failure.

The grim era of Stolypin began. In contrast to his predecessor, Goremykin, Stolypin had brains and was ready to combine ruthless suppression of the revolution with some moderate reforms, provided such reforms did not affect the principle of absolutism. Nevertheless, between the days of Ivan the Terrible and Stalin, his was the worst orgy of political terror. Thousands of "suspects" were jailed, deported, or killed by a firing squad. A new wave of violence swept over Russia. Police officers were ambushed and assassinated. A suicide squad of S-R blew up Stolypin's residence. Stolypin answered by introducing "military field courts," instructed to pass and execute death sentences within twenty-four hours after the suspect was seized.

The S-D party went underground, and its central organs were transferred to Finland. In St. Petersburg, however, some vestiges of freedom remained, among them the Cadet newspapers, a few labor unions, and the Council of the Unemployed.